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## **Preliminary Cultural Resources Assessment**

### **STB Finance Docket 34284 -- Southwest Gulf Railroad Company -- Construction and Operation Exemption -- Medina County, TX**

Prepared by:

Surface Transportation Board  
Section of Environmental Analysis  
1925 K Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20423

October 2003



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## INTRODUCTION

On February 27, 2003, Southwest Gulf Railroad Company (SGR) filed a petition with the Surface Transportation Board (Board) seeking authority from the Board to construct and operate approximately seven miles of single-track railroad in Medina County, Texas. The proposed rail line would extend from a planned Vulcan Construction Materials, LP (VCM) limestone quarry to a connection with the Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) rail line. VCM is a subsidiary of Vulcan Materials Company which is affiliated through common ownership with SGR. SGR also plans to build a two-mile long loading loop or a one-mile long straight track within the planned quarry property.<sup>1</sup>

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.* (NEPA), the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations implementing the procedural provisions of NEPA (40 CFR Part 1500), the Board's environmental rules (49 CFR Part 1105), and related environmental laws, including the National Historic Preservation Act, 16 U.S.C. 470f (NHPA), the Board must conduct an environmental review of SGR's proposal prior to issuing a final decision on SGR's petition.

The Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) is the office responsible for conducting the environmental review of SGR's proposal. URS Corporation of Austin, Texas is SEA's independent third-party consultant for this environmental review. Under the direction, supervision, and approval of SEA, the third-party consultant develops technical data required to complete the environmental review of the proposed action and assists in the preparation of the appropriate environmental document.

As part of SEA's environmental review and pursuant to the section 106 process of NHPA, SEA is assessing the potential impacts SGR's proposed project could have on cultural resources. The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's regulations at 36 CFR Part 800 outline the steps SEA must follow to complete the section 106 process. Consultation with appropriate parties and public involvement are integral to the section 106 process.

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<sup>1</sup> This loading loop or straight line track is not subject to the Board's jurisdiction but is part of the Board's environmental review, pursuant to relevant environmental regulations.

## **The Section 106 Process**

The section 106 process is comprised of the following three phases: (1) the Identification Phase; (2) the Assessment Phase; and (3) the Mitigation Phase. In the Identification Phase the agency must consult with the State Historic Preservation Officers (SHPO) and/or Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (THPO) to identify historic and cultural resources within the area of potential effects and determine whether any of these resources are historic resources (meaning that they are listed in or potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)). If the agency and the SHPOs and/or THPOs determine that historic properties could be affected by the proposed project, the agency and the SHPOs and/or THPOs must undertake the Assessment Phase and determine whether the effects to the properties would be adverse. If the agency and the SHPOs and/or THPOs determine that historic properties would be adversely affected, the agency will work with all consulting parties in the Mitigation Phase to devise appropriate mitigation. See 36 CFR 800.1(a).

At the outset of the section 106 process the agency must identify the appropriate SHPOs and/or THPOs and other consulting parties and initiate consultation with them and develop a plan for public involvement.

## **The Section 106 Process for this Project**

Pursuant to the ACHP regulations for implementing section 106, SEA first identified the appropriate SHPO (the Texas Historical Commission) and THPOs (the Comanche Nation, the Cherokee Nation, the Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma, and the Kickapoo Tribe) and initiated consultation with them. Both the SHPO and the Comanche Tribe requested detailed information regarding the cultural resources in the area of the proposed project. By letter dated July 15, 2003, the Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma stated that it will have no comment on the proposed project, because the project does not fall within the historic lands of the Iowa Tribe.<sup>2</sup>

The Medina County Environmental Action Association (MCEAA), a citizen organization composed of residents who live in the area of the proposed project, requested to be included as a section 106 consulting party. SEA granted MCEAA's request by letter dated July 21, 2003. By letter dated August 8, 2003, SEA invited the Medina County Historical Commission, the Quihi

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<sup>2</sup> Based on these comments, SEA will not send the Iowa Tribe of Texas further information regarding the proposed project.

and New Fountain Historical Society, and the Schweer's Historical Foundation to participate as consulting parties in the section 106 process. The Quihi and New Fountain Historical Society responded by letter dated August 20, 2003 stating that it would like to participate in the section 106 process.

This cultural resources assessment report is intended to serve as a starting point for the section 106 consultation for SGR's proposed project. The report sets forth SEA's preliminary findings and recommendations based on SEA's studies to date. Chapter 1 briefly describes SGR's proposed action and alternatives. Chapter 2 contains a cultural context overview of the proposed project area by providing a summary of the prehistory and history of Medina County and a brief discussion of known and potential historic resources located in the areas of potential effects. Chapter 3 discusses the results of SEA's initial studies, and includes SEA's opinion of the project's effects on historic properties and preliminary recommendations for treatment and/or mitigation.

SEA is providing a copy of this report to the SHPO, THPOs, and all of the parties that have been identified as consulting parties, which include the Medina County Environmental Action Association, the Medina County Historical Commission, the Quihi and New Fountain Historical Society, the Schweer's Historical Foundation, and SGR.

## **Public Involvement**

SEA plans to involve the public throughout the section 106 process and in conjunction with the overall environmental review. SEA held an Open House in Hondo, Texas on June 12, 2003 and provided the public with informational handouts, the opportunity to ask questions on an informal basis, and to submit written comments. SEA has received over 100 comments to date, some of which provided information regarding cultural and historic resources and raised concerns about the project's potential impact on privately-owned cemeteries not listed in public databases and privately-owned historic properties listed on the NRHP. After completing environmental studies, SEA will issue a draft environmental document for public review and comment, setting forth SEA's preliminary recommendations and conclusions. This cultural assessment report and any additional information regarding cultural and historic resources or the section 106 process for this project will be included as part of the environmental document.

## **1.0 DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES**

## **1.1 Proposed Route**

Southwest Gulf Railroad Company's (SGR) proposed route would consist of a single-track rail line between the Vulcan Construction Materials, LP (VCM) planned quarry site and the nearest Class I rail line, which is Union Pacific Railroad Company's (UP) Del Rio Subdivision. The UP rail line is located approximately seven miles south of the proposed quarry site, and SGR's line would meet the UP rail line at approximately milepost 250, at a point near Dunlay, Texas, as shown in Figure 1.

The proposed rail line would not traverse any incorporated or densely populated areas and would not cross any other rail lines. SGR's proposed route would cross one state maintained road (FM 2676), three county roads once and one county road twice. SGR's proposed route would cross five drainage features with intermittent seasonal flow (Cherry Creek, Quihi Creek, Polecat Creek, Elm Creek, and an unnamed tributary of Cherry Creek).

## **1.2 Description of Construction Activities**

SGR's proposed construction of the seven-mile rail line plus the two-mile loading loop or one-mile straight line track would involve eight phases. These phases would include: clearing and preparation of the right-of-way, fencing and utility relocations, earth work (cut and fill), roadbed construction, construction of structures and bridges, track placement, installment of signaling and grade crossings, and seeding and erosion control. The design criteria for the proposed rail line was based on American Railway Engineering and Maintenance of Way (AREMA) recommended practices for heavy-haul rail lines.

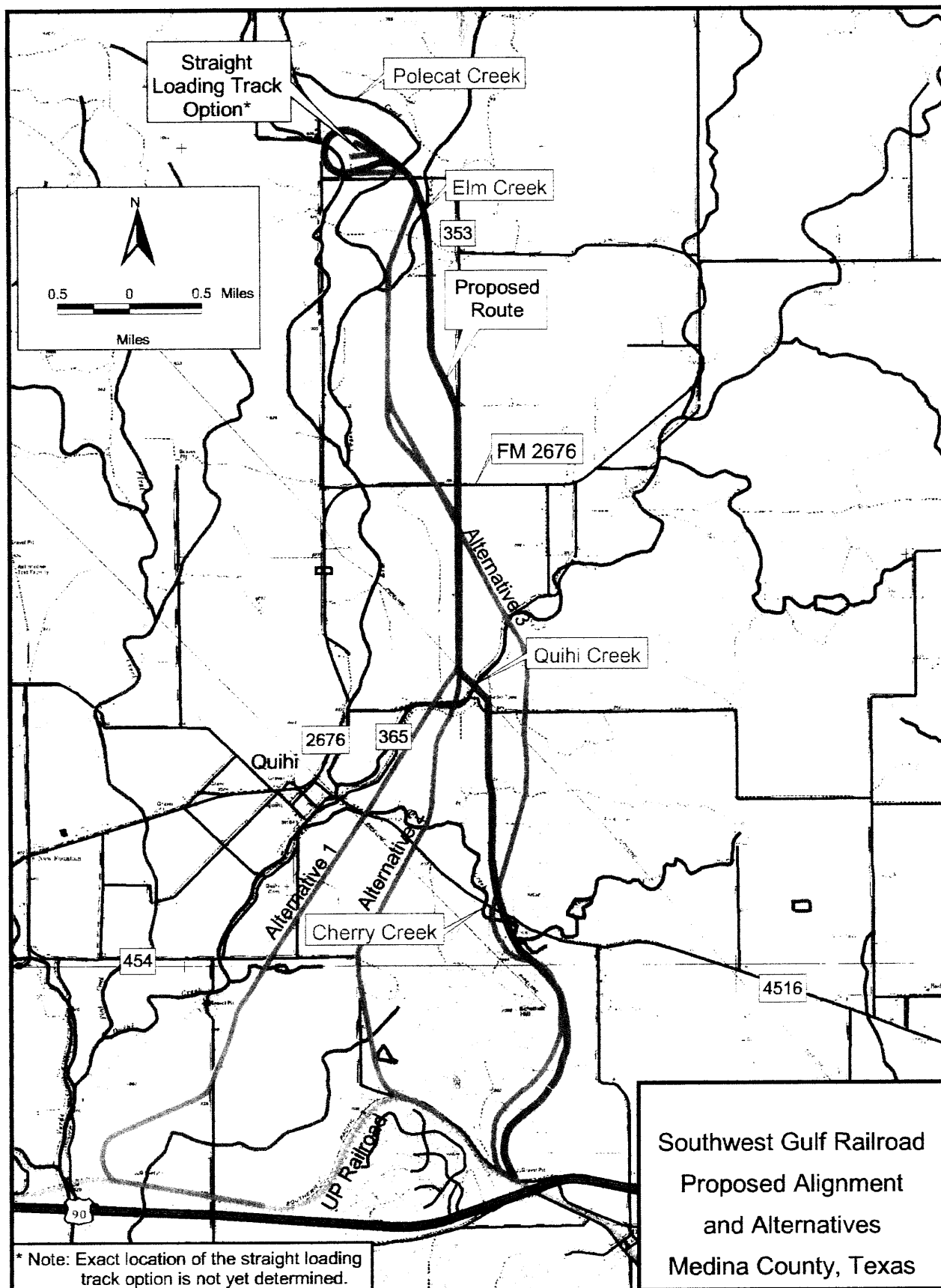


Figure 1. Proposed Route and Alternatives

SGR estimates that rail line construction would take 12 months.

- a. Clearing and preparation of right-of-way - 2.5 to 3 months
  - 1. Grubbing and clearing brush
  - 2. Fencing and utility relocations
  - 3. Earth work - cut and fill
- b. Roadbed construction - 2 months
  - 1. Roadbed construction
  - 2. Installation of culverts
  - 3. Structures and bridges construction
- c. Track placement -7 months
  - 1. Laying ties and rail
  - 2. Constructing structures and bridges
  - 3. Signaling and grade crossings
  - 4. Seeding and erosion control

### **1.3 Description of Maintenance and Operation Activities**

SGR intends to use trains with gross weights exceeding 14,000 tons and consisting of 100 cars, with 100-ton capacity each. SGR estimates that a minimum of 9,000 horsepower will be required to move these trains to the UP line. SGR intends to use typical models of locomotives for its normal operation. The types of cars to be used may include open gondolas or bottom-dump hopper type with a capacity to carry 100 to 120 tons of aggregate. The typical train length will be 100 of these cars. Each car would be approximately 50 to 58 feet long. Therefore, the typical length of a train would range roughly between 5,200 to 5,800 feet. Based on estimated rail shipments totaling 5 million tons, SGR expects to operate approximately four train movements per day, including both inbound (empty) and outbound (loaded) traffic, upon full operation of the proposed quarry.

SGR's proposed route would cross the following roads: FM 2676; County Road 454; County Road 4516; County Road 365; and County Road 353 twice.

SGR anticipates that the length of the rail line would be bounded on both sides of the right-of-way by appropriate fencing. Inside the right-of-way, native grass and shrubs would be

maintained. Consistent with most fence lines in the rural area, it is likely that native trees will develop and flourish, creating a visual buffer between the rail line and adjacent properties.

SGR states that it would conduct maintenance activities to maintain the rail line in good condition. Tracks would be maintained by resurfacing and replacing the ties and the damaged rail as needed. Industry track, including switches, would be inspected on a monthly basis in compliance with Federal Railway Administration Standards. The locomotives would be maintained by changing filters and by cleaning the external bodies with water. In addition, rail testing equipment would be run over the rail line on a yearly basis to electronically check for defects in the rail. Based on these inspections, ties and defective rail would be replaced. The track alignment would also be maintained using a surface machine to maintain the grade and alignment within applicable requirements.

#### **1.4 Other Route Alternatives Considered**

During the planning phase of the project SGR preliminary examined a total of eight routes (with minor variations within the routes), and evaluated the routes for avoidance of wetlands, favorable topography and the number of properties crossed. SGR determined that four of the eight original alternatives met the criteria for further evaluation: SGR's proposed route; Alternative 1; Alternative 2; and Alternative 3 (see Figure 1).

VCM also considered alternative means of transporting quarried materials to the UP line, such as a conveyor system. VCM rejected the conveyor system option, because of the economic cost of building and maintaining more than seven miles of belts and idlers.

In addition to SGR's proposed route, SEA's environmental review will examine Alternative 1, Alternative 2, Alternative 3, and the no-build alternative.

##### **1.4(a) Alternative 1**

Alternative Route 1 would connect with the UP rail line approximately 3 miles west of where the proposed route would. This route is approximately 2 miles longer than the proposed route and would cross in excess of 20 individual properties.

##### **1.4(b) Alternative 2**

Alternative Route 2 would connect with the UP rail line in the same location as SGR's proposed route. This route swings farther west than SGR's proposed route, which would increase the distance by approximately 1,000 feet and cross in excess of 18 individual properties.

##### **1.4(c) Alternative 3**

Alternative Route 3 would connect with the UP rail line in the same location as Alternative Route 2 and SGR's proposed route. This route swings farther east and then cuts back to the west diagonally across several properties. This route is about 2,500 feet longer than the proposed route and crosses in excess of 16 individual properties.

### **1.5 The No-Build Alternative**

Under the no-build alternative, the VCM quarry would be built, but the limestone produced by the quarry would be moved by truck rather than rail. Trucks would carry the limestone from the quarry to the UP line. SGR estimates that it would take about 900 truck trips (450 round trips) per day to transport the limestone.

## **2.0 Cultural Resources**

### **2.1 Cultural Context Overview**

Southwest Gulf Railroad Company's (SGR) proposed route is located in the Medina River Basin in the South Central Texas cultural region near the communities of Dunlay, New Fountain, and Quihi. The rich and abundant natural resources of the region, including the Edwards Plateau and the Medina River valley and its tributaries (Hondo Creek, Verde Creek, Quihi Creek, Elm Creek, and Cherry Creek), have attracted groups of people to the area for at least the past 10,000 years. Water sources, wild game, native plants, and raw materials, like those found along Quihi Creek, have been exploited by many groups throughout the years. These groups have left behind evidence of their activity in the form of archeological sites, cemeteries, and historic buildings, which are referred to as cultural resources, historic properties, or archeological deposits.

Significant numbers of Germanic-Alsatian-style native stone homes and ruins and Victorian-style wooden frame homes are present along Quihi Creek and are associated with the 19th and 20th century communities of Quihi and Upper Quihi. Associated with all of the buildings and ruins are buried historic archeological deposits. The deposits at the 19th century houses and ruins are significant because of their connection with early periods of Texas history. The Quihi communities were founded by immigrants from Oldenburg, Germany who came to the area in 1856. The first immigrants to the Quihi area arrived in 1846 and obtained land from Henry Castro's grant.

Frenchman Henri Castro (1786-1865), a former member of Napoleon's guard of honor, immigrated to the United States and became a naturalized citizen in 1827 (Williams 1996). In 1838, Castro returned to France, where he became a bank partner and began negotiating a loan for the newly formed Republic of Texas. The President of the Texas Republic, Sam Houston, named Castro as consul general for Texas in Paris, and Castro's interest in the new republic grew.

In 1842, Castro entered into a contract with the Texas Republic to settle a colony on the Medina River. Castro recruited colonists from the Alsace region of France who brought French customs and building styles to the area (Bishop 1996). The first 35 colonists arrived in September of 1844 and the colony subsequently grew in number. Colonists endured disease, drought, and attacks from Native Americans, and in 1848, Medina County was formed. These Alsatian colonists founded the present-day towns of Castroville, D'hanis, Quihi, and Vandenburg (Bishop 1996). In 1845, the village of Quihi was established (Williams 1996) and Texas became a state of the United States.

The historic periods of the Texas Republic and Early Statehood are of great interest to scholars, archeologists, historians, historic architects, genealogists, and other interested groups. For this reason, the Germanic-Alsatian houses and ruins in the Quihi area and associated archeological deposits are considered significant, non-renewable cultural resources that have the potential, when scientifically studied, to contribute new knowledge about the unique local and regional history of the Quihi community. Areas adjacent to county roads can be considered high-probability areas for the presence of 19th century cottages, houses, and private cemeteries. High-probability areas for prehistoric sites in this region would be well-drained areas located near springs and karst features, and along rivers, streams, and creeks. Archeological evidence related to prehistoric quarrying, stone tool manufacturing, and habitation has been reported in the Quihi Creek watershed (Hester 2003; Keller 1979).

Segments of SGR's proposed route, Alternative 1, Alternative 2, and Alternative 3 have a high-probability to contain archeological deposits because of their hydrological and topological setting and/or their proximity to late 19th century residences, ruins, and roads. The intermittent tributaries of Quihi Creek, Cherry Creek, Elm Creek, and Polecat Creek exhibit shallow to deep alluvial soils that have the potential to contain prehistoric archeological deposits, such as temporary open campsites or activity areas. The absence of a river or a dependable year-round water supply limits the possibility that the remains of large habitation sites will be present in the Quihi Creek drainage. Large campsites are often located in areas with well drained sandy soils within 300 to 600 feet of dependable water sources such as the Medina River. Extensive deposits of Uvalde gravels, a raw material known to be frequently exploited by prehistoric tool makers, are not present in the area of the proposed project, but are found 5 miles to the north (Brownlow 2003) and 10 miles to the south, near La Coste, Texas (Godwin et al. 2003).

The absence of Uvalde gravel deposits near the Quihi area reduces the probability that large numbers of extensive prehistoric quarries will be present. In addition, large prehistoric lithic procurement sites, which are prehistoric stone quarry or workshop locales made up of a scatter of gravel and cobble rocks that have been broken open by Native American stone tool makers or flintkappers in order to extract chert for the manufacture of projectile points (commonly known as arrowheads) and other types of stone tools, are likely absent as well. Large quarries or procurement areas are generally associated with extensive natural outcrops of Uvalde gravels. In the Quihi Creek area, large procurement sites are not expected because the deposits of Uvalde gravels are located to the south and southeast of Quihi. A brief cultural context overview for the prehistory and history of the Quihi area follows.

### 2.1.1 Prehistory

The archeology of the area is similar to that of adjacent areas of central Texas, particularly Bexar County. Medina County contains at least 131 recorded archeological sites (Godwin et al. 2003). The earliest inhabitants of Medina County were the PaleoIndians who likely immigrated from Asia about twelve thousand years ago. The PaleoIndians were hunters and gatherers, and utilized particular blade technology to create stone tools to hunt and process now-extinct animals, including mastodon and mammoth. The early stages of the PaleoIndian period are made up *Clovis* point users and *Folsom* point users.

The *Clovis* point users made a distinctive point and used it on a thrusting spear. The defining traits of the *Clovis* point are large flutes, sometimes referred to as "blood grooves." The flute is a large flake or thin "blade" of chert that is removed by the flintkapper in one piece. The single flute runs the length of the point and is located in the center of the point. Archeological sites with *Clovis* period components are widespread across North America, including the south central United States and Central Texas, and are often found with mammoth bones, in stone tool caches (stored items or provisions buried or concealed in natural locales, such as a cave), and at habitation sites where groups temporarily camped (Collins 2003). Little is known about *Clovis* peoples' plant gathering and processing.

The *Clovis* point users were replaced or evolved into *Folsom* point users about ten thousand years ago. The distinguishing traits of the *Folsom* points are their small size and their central flute. The *Folsom* users also hunted large now-extinct game, primarily the *Bison antiquus*. As a result, *Folsom* site distribution is not as widely spread across North America and are common in the Plains, Prairies, and parts of the southwestern United States (Collins 2003). The nomadic hunter-gatherer ways of *Folsom* point users is becoming better known, but their plant gathering practices are largely unknown. Relatively few sites of the *Clovis* or *Folsom* peoples have been found in Medina County. However, adjacent Bexar County contains several known sites of these peoples.

About eight thousand years ago, during the Late Paleo-Indian period, flake technology, or the methods used by flintkappers to manufacture tools, superseded blade technology. At this time, the style of the points changed from large fluted points to smaller, finely-flaked points, sometimes asymmetrical. The smaller points contain multiple flakes that are narrow, short, and fine, and are thinning pieces of chert removed by flintkappers, instead of larger single "blade" flakes. The fine flaking is present across the width of the Late Paleo-Indian points, and is not oriented lengthwise.

Artifacts from this time that are commonly found in the region are *Plainview* points. *Plainview* points are non fluted points made from large chert or flint flakes. The points contain no barbs, indicating that they were still used on thrusting spears. These points were designed to be thrust into an animal and withdrawn for another thrust. *Plainview* point users were nomadic groups that hunted the last of the *Bison antiquus*.

The end of the Paleo-Indian period about 12,000 years ago was marked by the development of barbed points used with the newly developed atlatl, a spear thrower. Peoples of the proto or early Archaic period about 5,000 years ago retained a small number of styles of thrusting spear points but Early barbed, *Wilson* and other barbed styles prevailed. More is known about the plant processing techniques of these peoples and their hunting of modern animals, such as deer.

The Archaic period (5,000-6,000 to 1,800 years ago) is divided differently, depending on the archeologist. Generally, most archeologists agree on a proto-Archaic phase followed by early, middle and late phases. Each period or phase is characterized by dart point styles and other tool types. The creation of burned rock middens, or cooking features made up of native stone, and the use of manos, or grinding stones, and metates, or grinding slabs, reflect the dependence on wild plants as food and for tools. The osteological material, or animal bone samples, collected from sites of the period show that deer hunting and small game trapping for food took place. Sites of the Archaic period are large and numerous throughout the area indicating an increase in population and a long period of occupation.

Evidence shows that certain technological advances took place in the area about thirteen hundred years ago. The invention of the bow and arrow allowed hunters to stand at a distance from game and to be more effective. In the area of the proposed project, distinctive, small-barbed arrow points mark the period. Among these are the *Scallorn* (earlier) and *Perdiz* (later) points. In the area of the proposed project, *Perdiz* points are occasionally found with *Leon plain* pottery shards. Some large late sites in Bexar County contain burial sites and elaborate shell and bone work artifacts. This period is called by various names including Neo-American, Post-Archaic, and Late Prehistoric.

### **2.1.2 History**

By the time the Spanish entered the area in the late 1680s, most native peoples in the area were Coahuilteco speakers. A number of Apache groups were located to the north and

west, the Sana were to the northeast, and other groups, including the Karankawa and Coahuilteco speakers, were located to the southeast and south. These groups were likely different from the prehistoric groups of the area, because the Coahuiltecos from Coahuila moved northward in the mid to late 16th century and other groups from the Nuevo Santander and Nuevo Leon regions were mobile during that time as well.

Early Spanish contact with peoples along the Gulf of Mexico of today's Texas coast line (Pineda in 1519 and survivors of the Nárvaez expedition of 1528) had little to no direct impact on the peoples of the proposed project area. Primarily, the impact would have been the result of European diseases transmitted by contact with coastal peoples. By the late 1680s, Alonzo de Leon was in contact with groups to the south. The Terán and Mazanet expedition of 1691 indicated that Coahuilteco was spoken from Coahuila northeast to the Guadalupe River. One of the important groups in the area was the Ervipiame who had been earlier noted in northern Coahuila and still earlier in southwestern Coahuila. By 1719, the Lipan Apaches had moved into the area from the northwest, and by 1740, the first Comanches entered the area. They were followed by a much smaller group, the Tonkawa in the late eighteenth century. Comanches remained in the area into the second half of the 19th century.

The Camino Real or Upper Presidio Road established in the late 1600s passed through the southeastern portion of the Medina County area. A later road ran from San Antonio toward Bandera Pass and then later to Uvalde. This road was near the current US Highway 90. The official establishment of the Spanish settlement at San Antonio de Bexar in 1719 suggests that Spaniards began to enter Medina County on a fairly regular basis after that date. It is likely, however, that Spanish ranchers from Nuevo Leon were already chasing cattle and hunting buffalo in the area prior to that date. With the establishment of the missions of Mission San Antonio de Valero, Mission Concepcion, Mission San Jose, and Mission Espada on the San Antonio River, Spain controlled the area now known as southwest Texas, and Spanish missions and secular ranches were established during the early 1700s. San José's Rancho San Lucas developed just east of the proposed project area (McGraw, Clark, and Robbins 1991). However Jackson's 1986 magnum opus "Los Mesteños" does not indicate Spanish ranches west of San Lucas. Thus, the Quihi area, during the Spanish and Mexican periods, would see the occasional group of vaqueros and various Indians, but no permanent European settlement.

The French conquest of Spain in 1810 engendered a number of revolutions in the Spanish colonies in the Americas in 1811. The Viceroyalty of Nueva España, or New Spain,

which included Texas as its most northeasterly province, experienced these revolutionary uprisings. Initially the uprisings were successful (Garrett 1969), but, by 1813, Spanish forces were able to reassert their sovereignty at the battle of the Medina in Atascosa County (Schwarz 1985).

Following the battle of the Medina, Spanish troops removed rebels and rebel supporters from the province of Texas, almost depopulating the area. Spanish officials attempted to repopulate the province with those loyal to the Spanish government, and established the missions of Nueva Jaen located west of the proposed project area, San Marcos de Neve on the San Marcos River, and Trinidad de Salcedo on the Trinity River.

After the Spanish effort proved unsuccessful and control of the region began to shift, the Governor of Texas conceded to listen to a proposal from a Spanish citizen from Upper Louisiana, Moses Austin, who suggested bringing families from the United States into Texas. Austin's death and a new and successful revolution that led to the formation of Mexico in 1812 postponed the colonization proposal. However, Austin's son, Stephen, took up his father's enterprise and began the settlement of three hundred families to Mexico from the United States in 1824.

In the same year, the Mexican government ratified a liberal constitution, patterned on that of the United States. It allowed Mexican states to establish liberal immigration policies. Several colonization projects were initiated. However, by 1828, the Mexican government became worried about the great number of foreigners and sent General Manuel Mier y Terán on a tour of inspection. He reported that large numbers of immigrants from the United States were present, which confirmed the government's fears that the new settlements were being established by groups that did not come from Mexico, and led to the development of laws to curtail immigration from the United States.

During this time, two political parties, the Federalists and the Centralists, fought for control of the Mexican government. In 1835, Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna, a supposed Federalist, took power by military action and quickly showed himself to be a Centralist. This caused several revolts in Mexico, notably in Zacatecas and later in Texas. In 1836, Sam Houston led a small Texan army to battle at San Jacinto and successfully won Texas' independence by capturing the Mexican commander and head of state, Santa Anna.

Texas remained an independent republic for almost ten years and focused on attracting new settlers to the area to help ward off attacks by Indians and Mexicans. Among the colonial leaders was Henri Castro, the Frenchman who settled Alsatians in a colony west of the Medina River. As previously mentioned, Castro founded Castroville in 1844 and brought settlers to Quihi in 1845 (Ochoa 1996a). Quihi, named for the white-necked Mexican Eagle buzzard, the quichie or keechie, developed near Quihi Lake (Odintz 1996). Settlers lived in town and farmed in the outlying lands. The town was founded by ten families, including the Brucks, Heyen, Muennink, Pichot, Schweers, Schuele, and Saathoff families, but continued to grow with the addition of new Alsatian and Freisan families and, later, of German families.

The population of Quihi eventually grew to about 100 before the Civil War (Odintz 1996). Settlers from central Germany came to Quihi after the Civil War, and by the 1850s settlers were building distinctive homes of local limestone and adobe. Two types of limestone are present in the area -- a white limestone at Quihi and a yellowish-orange limestone in Upper Quihi.

The Quihi colony continued to grow after Texas was annexed to the United States in 1845, later expanding upstream along Quihi Creek. Appendix A contains a brief account of the experience of German settlers who came to the new state and to the Quihi colony, known as the Saathoffsche Kolonie. The area had originally been part of Bexar County, but Medina County became a separate county in 1848.

A small Mormon community formed in the northeast corner of the county in 1854 but did not survive long. Cattle raising was a principal agricultural activity around Castroville and Quihi with the aid of Mexican vaqueros, or cowboys (Ochoa 1996a). The citizens of Medina County were unionist and in 1861 voted against seceding from the United States, although Texas supported the Confederacy and seceded from the United States. A number of Medina County citizens fled the state during the Civil War. Like all areas in the Confederacy, Medina County experienced economic hardship during the war, and property values dropped.

After the Civil War, German immigrants increased in number in the county, and by 1870 they comprised the majority of the inhabitants in the county. The arrival of the railroad in the 1880s promoted the economic growth of the area, and cattle and other stock raising reached a peak in the 1870s and 1880s when barbed wire enabled ranchers to control the ranging of their stock. By the 1890s, the cultivation of cotton replaced most other kinds of farming. However,

the boll weevil or insect infestation of 1905 ended the dominance of cotton which was then replaced by corn. The Medina dam project to irrigate land in the eastern part of the county early in the 20th century faced numerous difficulties, but did not affect the area north of Quihi. Tenant farming became important in the county during the first third of the 20th century.

Medina County contains several designated historic sites that are significant to local and regional history and/or prehistory. The nearby 19th century community of New Fountain has an historical marker on FM 2676 commemorating the Weimers Oak tree that is located on land purchased by Johann Weimer in 1854. The oak tree was the site of religious services for the community until Mr. Weimer founded the New Fountain Methodist Church nearby. The oak continued to serve as a gathering site and a site for making molasses and is an important local landmark. A family home is nearby (Awbrey and Dooley 1978). Appendix B contains a portion of the 1870 Medina County Census that lists the inhabitants of New Fountain.

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) in Quihi is the Schuele-Saathoff house. The house dates to about 1870 and is a typical Castro Colony one and a half story limestone house. It was entered on the NRHP in 1982 under criteria related to architectural style and association with area pioneers (Steeley 1984).

Pioneer families associated with potential historic homes and ruins in the SGR project area and the Quihi Creek settlement include: Brucks, Heyen, Muennink, Pichot, Schweers, Schuele, and Saathoff. Given the location of SGR's proposed project, it is highly likely that both prehistoric and historic sites would be located by an on-the-ground pedestrian survey. Some of these sites would likely be significant because of their architectural style and/or association with pioneer families.

## **2.2 Areas of Potential Effect (APE)**

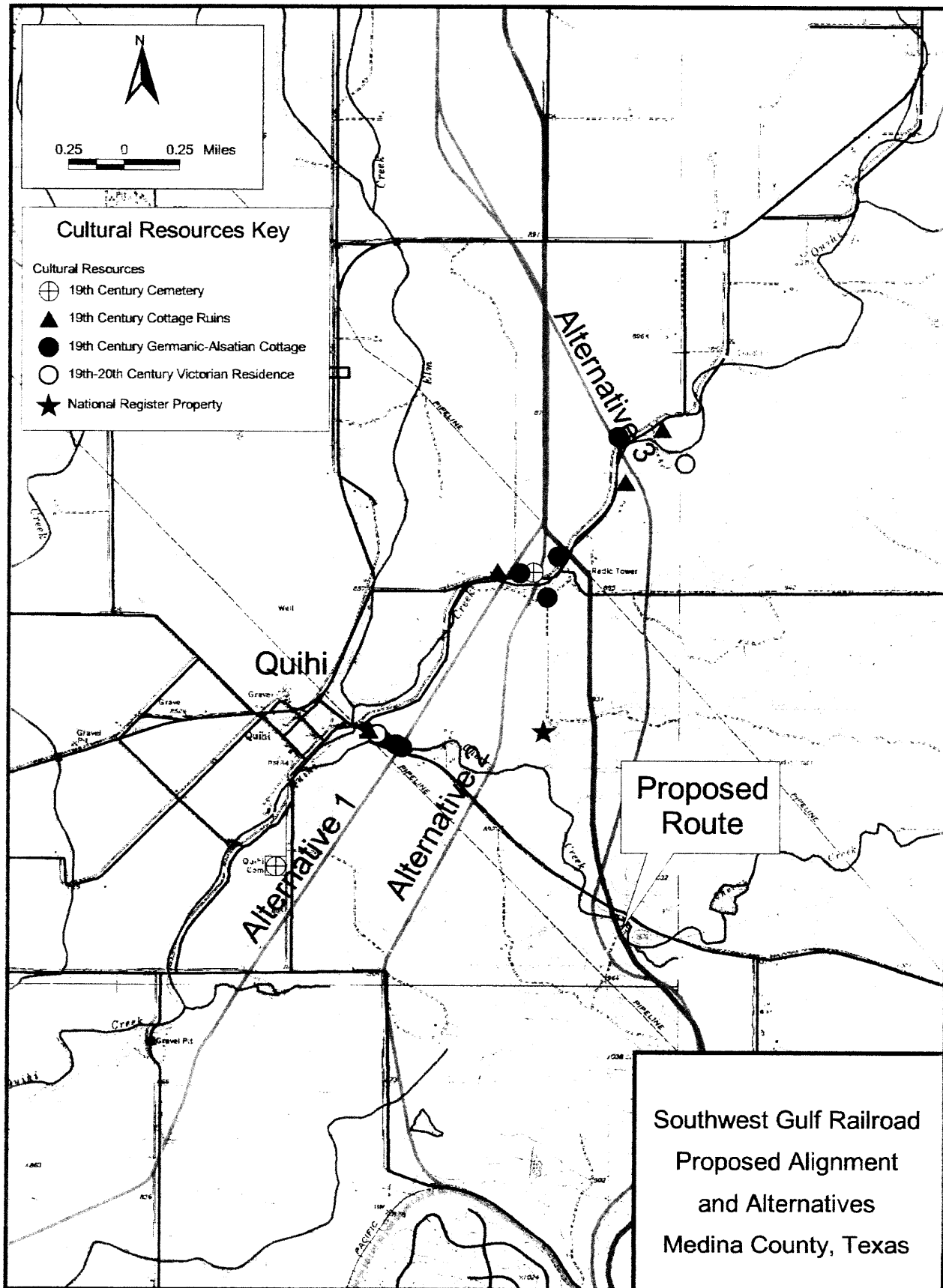
A total of four possible routes or Areas of Potential Effect (APE) have been identified for the SGR railroad right-of-way. The proposed route and Alternatives 1, 2, and 3, are located in the semi-rural setting of the Quihi and Upper Quihi communities, which contain numerous 19th century houses and ruins. The majority of structures in the area are residences dating in age from the 1870s to the 1940s. Each of the four proposed rail alignments is located near potentially eligible historic homes which are distributed along county roads near Quihi Creek (see Figure 2).

Under the no action alternative, a remote loading facility would be constructed near the southern end of the SGR route to transfer rock material from the trucks to the main Union Pacific Railroad.

Historic land uses include ranching, agriculture, quarrying for gravel and stone, and underground and above-the-ground utility easements. Underground pipelines cross the area of the proposed project in two places; unimproved county roads and one paved farm to market road are also present. Two electrical transmission lines span the area. The upland portion of the right-of-way crosses undeveloped tracts covered in mesquite trees and native grasses. The portion of the right-of-way that crosses the Quihi Creek floodplain is open and predominately agricultural, and has been intensively farmed since the 1870s. Cherry Creek, Elm Creek, and Polecat Creek are located in undeveloped wooded upland tracts where land use impacts have been minimal.

SEA's background research encompassed the Quihi and Upper Quihi areas and revealed that one historic property included in the NRHP is present near two of the alignments. The Texas Historic Sites Atlas lists the 19th century Schuele-Saathoff House as a NRHP property. The Schuele-Saathoff House is located near the proposed route and the Alternative 2 alignment. A review of early 20th century historic maps indicates that many of the structures in the Quihi area were constructed prior to 1930. The site visit to initially view the cultural resources confirmed that the semi-rural Quihi neighborhood is made up predominately of late 19th and early 20th century vernacular-style residences designed in a regionally distinctive style that incorporates locally available raw materials, such as native limestone.

SEA's preliminary study identified that a total of 16 potentially significant 19th century homes, ruins, and cemeteries are located in the vicinity of the four routes (see Figure 2). The Schuele-Saathoff House is listed in the NRHP and is located near the proposed route and the Alternative 2 alignment. Of the remaining 15 historic properties documented during the site visit and located near at least one of the four possible rail routes, two are eligible for listing in the NRHP, eight are potentially eligible for listing in the NRHP, and the eligibility status of five of the properties is not yet known (See Table 1).



**Figure 2. Distribution of the 19th Century Cultural Resources Located Within 1000 Feet of the Alignments**

**Table 1. Summary of 19th Century Cultural Resources Within 1000 Feet of the Proposed Route and the Alternative 1, 2, and 3 Alignments Listed from North to South with Eligibility Status**

Description	County Road	Distance (ft.) from				Eligibility Status for NR Listing
		Pro. Rt.	Alt. No. 1	Alt. No.2	Alt. No. 3	
1.Oeffinger G-A Cottage	365	1800	1800	1800	250	Unknown
2.Saathoff Victorian Cottage	365	2800	2800	2800	650	Potential
3. Saathoff G-A Cottage	365	2400	2400	2400	800	Potential
4. G-A Cottage Ruins	365	2400	2400	2400	600	Potential
5. Henry Schweers House	365	250	800	250	2200	Eligible
6. Schweers Cemetery	365	1500	200	600	3200	Unknown
7. William Schweers House	365	1800	125	800	3200	Eligible
8. G-A Cottage Ruins	450	2000	400	1200	3800	Potential
9. Pichot Property	365	1000	1200	400	2400	Unknown
10. Schuele-Saathoff (NRHP)	365	1000	2100	1300	2200	Listed
11. Housely G-A Cottage	365	4300	300	2200	5500	Potential
12. G-A Cottage Ruins	4516	5300	1000	3400	6800	Potential
13. Victorian House	4516	5200	800	3100	6400	Unknown
14. G-A Ruins @ 4311	4516	5000	300	3800	6000	Potential
15. G-A Cottage @ 4311	4516	4950	125	2500	5800	Potential
16. Quihi Cemetery	4517	4700	700	3800	7600	Unknown

AD=Archeological Deposits; G-A=Germanic Alsatian; NR=National Register Property

In addition to the 19th century structures present, three 20th century residences more than 50 years old were identified within 1000 feet of SGR's proposed route and alternative routes that may be indirectly impacted by construction and/or operation activity. Each of the properties is occupied and the structures consist of residences built during the 1930s to 1940s. The 20th century houses for the most part do not appear to be eligible for listing in the NRHP based on architectural style, with the possible exception of one home on County Road 4545.

Two of the 20th century houses are 1940s-era homes on County Road 353. One is a framed bungalow-style residence located about 400 feet east of the proposed route. The second is a frame bungalow about 1000 feet from the proposed route. The third property is a mid-20th century Mediterranean-style bungalow that is located on County Road 4545 approximately 200 feet west of the Alternative 1 alignment. Due to the large numbers of potentially significant 19th century structures present in SGR's APE, this report focuses on the 19th century structures. Photographs of the 20th century properties will be made available upon request.

SEA's preliminary database search also revealed that one archeological survey has been conducted in the vicinity of the project area. The survey resulted in the finding of one prehistoric

site, Site 41ME5 (Keller 1979). Site 41ME5 is a sparse scatter of stone debris from the manufacture of stone tools of unknown age and cultural affiliation, located on the banks of Elm Creek, and was destroyed by the construction of FM 2676. All of the 19th century structures in the Quihi vicinity and ruins possess associated archeological deposits, some of which are eligible for listing in the NRHP.

## 2.3 Proposed Route

SGR's proposed route passes by three 19th century properties and two 20th century homes. The 19th century Schuele-Saathoff House is a significant historic property listed in the NRHP that is located about 1000 feet west of the proposed route. The Henry Schweers House, a property eligible for listing in the NRHP is located about 250 feet to the west of the proposed route. A standing structure on the Pichot property is located within 1000 feet west of the proposed route. The eligibility status of the Pichot property is not known. In addition to the 19th century structure, two occupied 20th century homes are located within 1000 feet of the Proposed route. The 20th century houses near the proposed route are listed in Table 2 though preliminary data suggest that they are not eligible for listing in the NRHP. No known archeological sites are located inside or near the proposed route. However, all the areas surrounding the Germanic-Alsatian historic homes contain significant archeological deposits. Table 2 presents a summary of all the known cultural resources located within 1000 feet of the proposed route.

**Table 2. Summary of Known Cultural Resources Within 1000 Feet of the Proposed Route**

Property	Approx. Date	Description	Dist. From Proposed ROW
1. Schuele-Saathoff House (NRHP)	1870s	G-A Cottage	1000 ft. to West
2. Henry Schweers House	1880s-<1969	G-A Cottage	250 ft. to West
3. Pichot Property	1840s(?) -1880s	G-A(?) Cottage	1000 ft. to West
4. C.J. Saathoff	1930s-1940s	Frame Bungalow	400 ft. to East
5. Unknown/County Road 353	1930s-1940s	Frame Bungalow	1000 ft. to East

G-A=Germanic-Alsatian

### 2.3.1 The Schuele-Saathoff House

As previously mentioned the Schuele-Saathoff House (also known as the Saathoff House) was listed in the NRHP in 1982. Appendix C contains a copy of the NRHP form for the property. The NRHP data available from the Texas Historical Site Atlas is the source of this brief discussion. The Saathoff house dates to the early 1870s and is a well-preserved example of regional Germanic-Alsatian domestic architecture characteristic of Medina County and Central Texas. The design of the Saathoff House is unlike that of the characteristic Texas German style houses typical of counties to the north, which were settled by immigrants from central Germany.

The rectangular Alsatian-influenced Saathoff House possesses a five-bay porched front, a relatively low gable roof with end chimneys, and native plastered limestone with lime-sand mortar construction. Similar to other Eastern European pioneer Texas dwellings, the architecture of the Saathoff House reflects the limitations of the 19th century Medina County frontier environment and the simple adaptation of the pioneers to the local building materials, rugged conditions, and climate of Texas. Constructed of native stone quarried from Quihi Creek, the wood work inside the home was made of local cypress wood, as were shingles. Because the Schuele-Saathoff House is listed in the NRHP, the house is eligible to be designated by the State of Texas as a State Archeological Landmark (SAL).

### **2.3.2 The Henry Schweers House**

The Henry Schweers House is an example of a one and a half story vernacular cottage constructed in the 1880s. The residence is a typical example of a Castro Colony, Germanic-Alsatian-style cottage constructed by a master mason of local native stone (see photographs 7 and 17 in Appendix D). The structure has not been occupied since before 1969 and is deteriorated due to neglect. Overall, the condition of the house is fair. Some window frames have been removed and the stucco surface has deteriorated to expose the natural stone walls. The rear addition is gone. The property has been cleared of collapsed outbuildings and one historic barn remains, as well as modern concrete cisterns.

The Henry Schweers House, despite its condition, is potentially eligible for listing in the NRHP. The structure qualifies for listing under the categories of architecture/engineering, historic events, and association with the pioneer Schweers, Muennik, and the Brucks families influential in establishing commerce and education and religious facilities in Medina County. The house is associated with about 30 other German-Alsatian residences that make up the Quihi and Upper Quihi Creek communities and could be considered for a thematic NRHP nomination. The structure is also eligible for listing as a Recorded Texas History Landmark (RTHL). If the property is included in the NRHP, the house would be eligible for designation as an SAL.

### **2.3.3 Pichot Property**

Portions of a small structure are visible on this property from County Road 365 and County Road 4512. Maps of the region show that a structure has been in that location since before 1930. A gate across the entrance to the property indicates that the Pichot ownership of the tract dates to the 1840s. Likely, the house is a Germanic-Alsatian-style cottage constructed during the late 19th century. The structure could also be associated with Republic of Texas era (1830s-1840s)

events and persons. No access to the property was available and no photograph of the house was taken from the county roads due to thick vegetation that obscured the view of the house.

## **2.4 Proposed Route Preservation Plan**

Vulcan Materials Company (VMC) acquired two 19th century native stone Germanic-Alsatian structures and associated outbuildings while purchasing right-of-way property for the proposed project. The structures are cottage homes of early pioneers and settlers who founded the New Fountain, Quihi, and Upper Quihi communities. The William Schweers House was occupied by Mr. William Schweers (1922-1999) until his death. Associated with the house is a small family cemetery where a Wilhelm Balzen Schweers (1843-1913), and other family members are buried. The Henry Schweers House was apparently last occupied before 1969.

The William Schweers House and the Henry Schweers House are judged to be eligible for listing in the NHRP under all criteria, and plans for their preservation are underway. The historic Quihi community is associated with the arrival of pioneer settlers in the Medina River valley in the 1850s and later. The houses were owned by members of immigrant pioneer families from Germany and their descendants. The cottage-style houses embody a distinctive architectural style unique to the Medina River valley of south central Texas. Study of the structures and their associated archeological deposits has the potential to contribute new information about the Texas Republic era and Early Statehood local and regional history. The original owners of the Germanic-Alsatian-style cottages -- the Balzen, Brucks, Heyen, Muennink, Pichot, Saathoff, Schuele, and Schweer families - - successfully adapted to rugged frontier life and were important in establishing local commerce, county-wide education, and Methodist places of worship.

VMC's development plans for the proposed SGR project included the stabilization and preservation of the 19th century homes and cemeteries in order to minimize direct impacts to the historic fabric of the Quihi and Upper Quihi communities. Recognizing the significance of the 19th century Germanic-Alsatian neighborhood to local and regional history, VMC had weeds and overgrown vegetation removed from around the Henry Scheers house and the property was fenced to keep out vandals. VMC also contacted local historians and families related to former landowners to develop a preservation plan for the Schweers homes and cemetery.

VMC and parties interested in preservation began working together and formed a non profit organization called the Schweers Historical Foundation (SHF). The foundation is working with an architect to develop an architectural and management plan to preserve and maintain the

Schweers Houses and Cemetery properties for use as a museum and/or for a meeting place for annual reunions. VMC has donated the historic homes to the SHF and pledged its corporate support of the endeavor.

## **2.5 Alternative 1**

Alternative 1 is located in a sensitive area for cultural resources. The area contains cemeteries and certain historic properties that are eligible for listing in the NRHP and for designation as SALs. The alignment passes through one of the older parts of Quihi and is located within 1000 feet of occupied Germanic-Alsatian cottages, 19th century cottage ruins, a Victorian period home, and is within 200 feet of a modern 20th century bungalow. Although Alternative 1 is located closer to a greater number of cultural resources than the other routes, it has been sited to avoid direct impact to the historic properties that are located within 1000 feet of the proposed route (see Table 3).

The William Schweers House is about 125 feet east of Alternative 1 and is discussed in detail below. The Henry Schweers House is about 800 feet east of the alignment. The Schweers Cemetery is located about 200 feet to the east. Occupied homes are located in close proximity to the alignment and are the Housely Residence on County Road 365 (see photograph 8 in Appendix D), the Victorian house on County Road 4516 and the cottage at 4311 County Road 4516 (see photographs 9 and 11 in Appendix D). All of the extant 19th structures may be eligible for listing in the NRHP; the eligibility status of the cemetery is unknown.

Three sets of NHRP eligible 19th century cottage ruins are present near the alignment. The ruins at the intersection of County Road 4516 and County Road 365, at 4311 County Road 4516, and on County Road 450 are typical of cottage remnants and exhibit collapsed roofs and walls (see photographs 10 and 12 in Appendix D). The Quihi Cemetery is a public cemetery that is located within 700 feet of Alternative 1. In addition to the 19th century properties present, one 20th century Mediterranean-style, stucco, bungalow is located about 200 feet west of Alternative 1. No previously known archeological sites are located inside or near Alternative 1. However, all the Germanic-Alsatian historic homes and ruins have significant archeological deposits associated with them. The portion of the alignment that parallels Quihi Creek may also contain prehistoric site deposits.

**Table 3. Summary of Known Cultural Resources Located Within 1000 Feet of the Alternative 1 Alignment**

Property	Approx. Date	Description	Dist. From Alternative 1
1. William Schweers House	1870s-1880	G-A Cottage	125 ft. to East
2. Schweers Cemetery	1879-1913	Family Cemetery	200 ft. to East
3. Henry Schweers House	1880s-<1960s	G-A Cottage	800 ft. to East
4. G-A Ruins/CR450	1870s-1880s	Cottage Ruins	400 ft to West
5. Housely Cottage/CR365	1880s-Present	Occupied Cottage	300 ft. to West
6. Ruins at CR4516/365	1870s-1889s	Cottage Ruins	1000 ft. to West
7. Victorian House/ CR4516	1880s-1890s	Occupied Cottage	800 ft. to West
8. G-A Ruins/ 4311 CR4516	1870s	Cottage Ruins	300 ft. to West
9. G-A Cottage @ 4311/CR4516	1880s-Present	Occupied Cottage	125 ft. to West
10. Quihi Cemetery CR4517	1870s-Present	Public Cemetery	700 ft. to West
11. Bungalow CR4545	1930s-1940s	Vacant Residence	200 ft. to West

G-A=Germanic-Alsatian

### 2.5.1 The William Schweers House

The William Schweers House is a well-preserved one and a half story vernacular cottage constructed in 1884. The residence is a typical example of a German-Alsatian-style domestic architecture common to the New Fountain and Quihi communities, the Medina River valley, and the Castroville/Hondo area of Central Texas (see photographs 1, 2, 3, and 4 in Appendix D). Few alterations have been made to the house and include the external addition of electricity, plumbing, a telephone line, and front porch alterations.

The interior is unaltered and contains four rooms constructed of native woods. The original screen doors, window panes, and window sashes are intact, while the front porch has been altered by concrete work and the west end has been enclosed for a kitchen or bath addition. A low-pitched gabled roof covered in metal contains two brick chimneys with articulated caps rising from the house together. The house has a rear addition with a cellar that has deteriorated. The house is held together by steel beam and cable system and appears to have evidence of damp rise.

Other outbuildings include wooden sheds and a barn containing wagons and harnesses. The outbuildings have been neglected and are leaning. The house and associated archeological deposits have high research value and are potentially eligible for listing in the NRHP. The house and some of its outbuildings qualify for listing under the categories of architecture/engineering, historic events, and with association with pioneers influential in the early commerce, education, and religion of Medina County. The house is associated with about 20 other Germanic-Alsatian-style homes that make up the Quihi community and could be considered for a thematic nomination. The

structure is also eligible for listing as a RTHL by the Texas Historical Commission. If the property is listed in the NRHP in the future, the house would be eligible for designation as an SAL.

### **2.5.2 The Schweers Cemetery**

The Schweers Cemetery is well kept and in good condition. The cemetery contains two above-the-ground tombstones marking the graves of adults and seven ground level markers showing the graves of children (see photographs 5 and 6 in Appendix D). An area equivalent to a double plot is unmarked. All graves are covered in gray pea gravel. The cemetery is enclosed within a low, home-made fence made of metal fence posts and 1/4-inch rebar and ornamental wire. The enclosure is 25 feet north to south by 20 feet east to west. The entrance is adjacent to County Road 365 and is marked by a large Spanish dagger plant.

Inscriptions on the tombstones are written in German and in English and indicate that members of pioneers named Schweers, Muennink, Heyen, and Brucks are buried in the plot. A tall pink granite monument to "Mutter and Vater" is the focus of the cemetery and is located in the southeast corner of the plot. The stone marks the grave of Elizabeth Muennink Schweers (1844-1910) and Wilhelm Balzen Schweers (1843-1913). Behind the pink granite marker, to the west, is a low stone of gray granite that marks the grave of Hinrich Balzen Schweers (1808-1900) and Zeda Heyen Schweers (1814-1879). An inscription on the top of the ornate scroll-shaped stone reads "Texas Pioneers 1856 Oldenburg, Germany."

The graves of seven children are also present inside the enclosure and are placed away from the adults in the northwest corner of the plot. A group of three graves contain the remains of the infant son of Mr. & Mrs. J. W. Schweers (1891); Louise Brucks (July 28, 1890 - August 15, 1890), and Sadie Brucks (December 29, 1901 - December 30, 1901). To the south, a second row of four stones mark the graves of Henry Schweers (February 7, 1884 - February 20, 1884), Mimke Schweers (September 17, 1886 - September 17, 1886), George Schweers (April 18, 1890 - April 18, 1890) and George B. Brucks (December 14, 1894 - July 9, 1895). The northeast corner of the cemetery does not contain any tombstones.

The oldest grave in the cemetery dates to 1879 and the most recent dates to 1913. The cemetery is designated as a cemetery in the property deed and should be considered an active cemetery. The Schweers Cemetery is owned by the estate of Henry Schweers (1922-1999). The Cemetery is adjacent to the William Schweers House. The cemetery is eligible for listing as a Texas State Historic Cemetery and for designation as an SAL.

## 2.6 Alternative 2

Alternative 2 has been sited to avoid five cultural resources that are located within 1000 feet of the alignment (see Table 4). The route passes by three houses that have the potential to be eligible for inclusion in the NRHP. Alternative 2 passes about 800 feet to the west of the William Schweers House, a property that is eligible for listing in the NRHP. Alternative 2 avoids the Schweers Cemetery by about 600 feet. The alignment passes 400 feet east of the structure on the Pichot property on the south side of Quihi Creek. The Henry Schweers House, a property potentially eligible for listing on the NRHP, is located on the north side of Quihi Creek, about 250 feet east of Alternative 2. No previously known archeological sites are located inside or near Alternative 2, however, all the 19th century homes and ruins have significant archeological deposits associated with them. Creek crossings may also contain areas with prehistoric site deposits.

**Table 4. Summary of Known Cultural Resources Within 1000 Feet of the Alternative 2 Alignment**

Property	Approx. Date	Description	Dist. From Alternative 2
1. William Schweers House	1870s-1880s	G-A Cottage	800 ft. to West
2. Schweers Cemetery	1879-1913	Family Cemetery	600 ft. to West
3. Henry Schweers House	1880s-<1960s	Ruins of Cottage	250 ft. to East
4. Pichot Property	1840s(?) -1880s	Cottage	400 ft. to East

G-A=Germanic-Alsatian

## 2.7 Alternative 3

Alternative 3 is located in the vicinity of significant historic structures and has been sited to avoid four cultural resources that are located within 1000 feet of the proposed route (see Table 5).

Of the four properties, one possesses unknown eligibility status, and three appear to be eligible for listing in the NRHP. The first structure is the occupied cottage located on the Oeffinger property facing County Road 365 that is located about 250 feet east of Alternative 3 (see photograph 13 in Appendix D). This property appears to be an altered Germanic-Alsatian residence and its eligibility status is unknown.

Two properties that may be potentially eligible for listing in the NHRP are 19th and 20th century properties. The Saathoff Victorian period home is occupied and is about 650 feet east of Alignment 3 (see photograph 14 in Appendix D). The Saathoff Germanic-Alsatian property is about 800 feet east of Alternative 3 (see photograph 15 in Appendix D).

The fourth property is 600 feet west of Alternative 3 and is a set of ruins located on the east side of CR365 (see photograph 16 in Appendix D). A second residence is shown at this location on USGS maps, that is also likely to be older than fifty years. Access was not available to the property. No previously known archeological sites are located inside or near Alternative 3. However, all the Germanic-Alsatian historic homes and ruins have significant archeological deposits associated with them. Creek crossings may also contain prehistoric site deposits.

**Table 5. Summary of Known Cultural Resources  
Within 1000 Feet of the Alternative 3**

Property	Approx. Dates	Description	Dist. From Alternative 3
1. Oeffinger Cottage	1870s-80s	G-A Cottage	250 ft. to East
2. Saathoff Victorian	1890s	Frame Cottage	650 ft. to East
3. Saathoff G-A	1880s to present	G-A Cottage	800 ft. to East
4. Ruins CR365	1880s	Cottage	600 ft. to West

GA=Germanic-Alsatian

## **2.8 No-Build Alternative**

If the rail line was not built, existing Medina County roads would be used by trucks to haul aggregate from the proposed quarry to a remote rail loading facility near the Union Pacific Railroad Company rail line. The houses along the proposed truck route are generally set further off from the road right-of-way and would be subject to less impact from vibration and noise or other indirect impacts than if the proposed rail line were built. However, any increased volume of weighted truck traffic on County Road 4516 would pass in close proximity to many of the historic properties, particularly ruins and small cemeteries.

### **3.0 Cultural Resources Impacts**

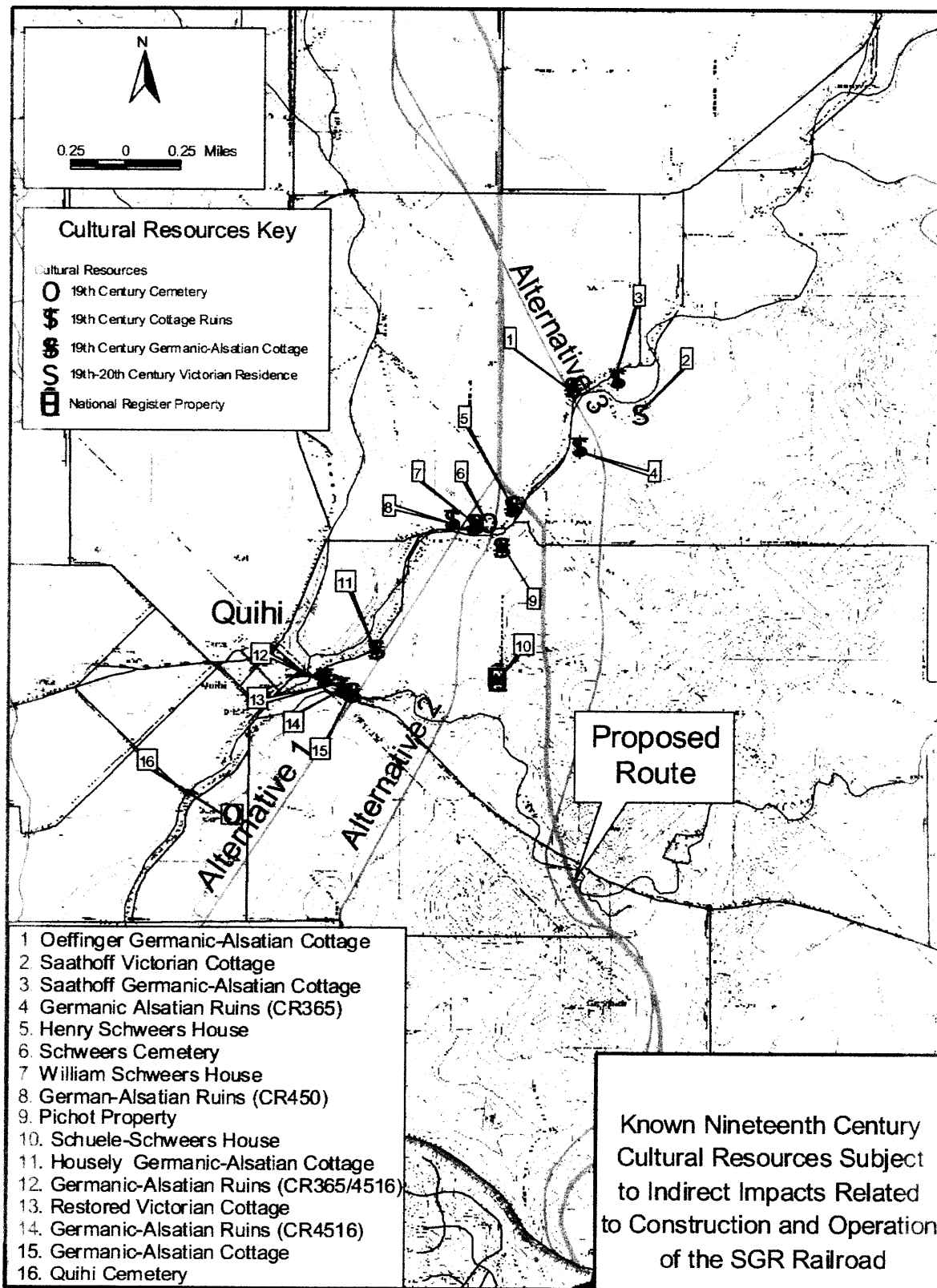
The Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) study of cultural resources began by identifying the Area of Potential Effect (APE) of the proposed Southwest Gulf Railroad Company (SGR) rail line and by gathering background information to identify any known historic properties listed or potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) that could be affected by the proposed rail line. The NRHP is the official list of the nation's historic properties that are recognized for their significance in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture. A property is eligible if it meets specific criteria established by the National Park Service (NPS) related to local, regional and national prehistory and history.

SEA's preliminary background research found that numerous historic properties are located near the proposed SGR route and alternative alignments that may meet NPS criteria and/or are either listed, eligible, or potentially eligible for listing in the NRHP. SEA also performed a cultural resources site visit of the area on March 27 and April 2, 2003.

Based on all information gathered to date, and as discussed below, SEA determined that SGR's proposed project may impact historic properties and is preliminarily proposing certain measures to treat and/or mitigate or avoid potential adverse impacts to these historic properties.

#### **3.1 Potential Impacts to Known Cultural Resources**

SEA's cultural resources assessment preliminarily concludes that the proposed construction and operation of SGR's rail line would not directly impact or affect any known significant cultural resources. SGR states that the proposed route and three alternative routes have been sited as far away from important cultural resources as possible. However, certain cultural resources that make up the communities of Quihi and Upper Quihi could be indirectly affected by the proposed project. A total of 16 late 19th century ruins, cottages, and cemeteries and their associated archeological deposits are located adjacent to, nearby, or within 1000 feet of the proposed route or alternatives and could be indirectly affected by the construction and/or operation of the proposed rail line (see Figure 3). Three mid-20th century residences outside of the Quihi community are located within 1000 feet of either the proposed route or one alternate alignment that may also be affected by the proposed action.



**Figure 3. Map Showing the Known 19th Century Cultural Resources Subject to Indirect Impacts Related to Construction and Operation of Proposed Rail Line**

The proposed route would affect the least number of known 19th century cultural resources, while Alternative 1 would affect the greatest number of known cultural resources. Alternative 2 or Alternative 3 would affect fewer known 19th century cultural properties than Alternative 1, and slightly more than the proposed route. Potential impacts from rail operations to any of the cultural resources would be indirect impacts in the form of aesthetics, view, vibration, and dust. Indirect impacts to three 19th century cultural resources and two 20th century homes could occur from operations along the proposed route. Eleven of the 19th and 20th century cultural resources could be subject to indirect impacts from operations along Alternative 1. If the Alternative 2 alignment is built, four 19th century cultural resources could be indirectly affected, and if Alternative 3 is built, four cultural resources dating to the 1800s could be indirectly affected.

**Table 6. Summary of Potential Impacts to Known Cultural Resources and Their NRHP Eligibility Status**

Property	Location	Impact/Route	NRHP
			Eligibility Status
1. Oeffinger G-A Cottage	CR365	Indirect/A 3	Unknown
2. Saathoff Victorian Cottage	CR365	Indirect/A 3	Potential
3. Saathoff G-A Cottage	CR365	Indirect/A 3	Potential
4. G-A Cottage Ruins	CR365	Indirect/A 3	Potential
5. Henry Schweers House	CR365	Indirect/P, A 1, A2	Eligible
6. Schweers Cemetery	CR365	Indirect/A 1, A2	Unknown
7. William Schweers House	CR365	Indirect/A 1, A2	Eligible
8. G-A Cottage Ruins	CR450	Indirect/A 1	Potential
9. Pichot Property	CR 365	Indirect/P, A 2	Unknown
10. Schuele-Schweers-NRHP	CR365	Indirect/P	Listed
11. Housely G-A Cottage	CR365	Indirect/A 1	Unknown
12. G-A Cottage Ruins	CR4516	Indirect/A 1	Potential
13. Victorian Cottage	CR4516	Indirect/A 1	Unknown
14. G-A Cottage Ruins	CR4516	Indirect/A 1	Potential
15. G-A Cottage (@4311	CR4516	Indirect/A 1	Potential
16. Quihi Cemetery	CR4517	Indirect/A 1	Unknown
17. C. J. Saathoff House	CR 353	Indirect/P	Unknown
18. Farmhouse	CR 353	Indirect/P	Not Eligible
19. Modern Bungalow	CR4545	Indirect/A1	Unknown

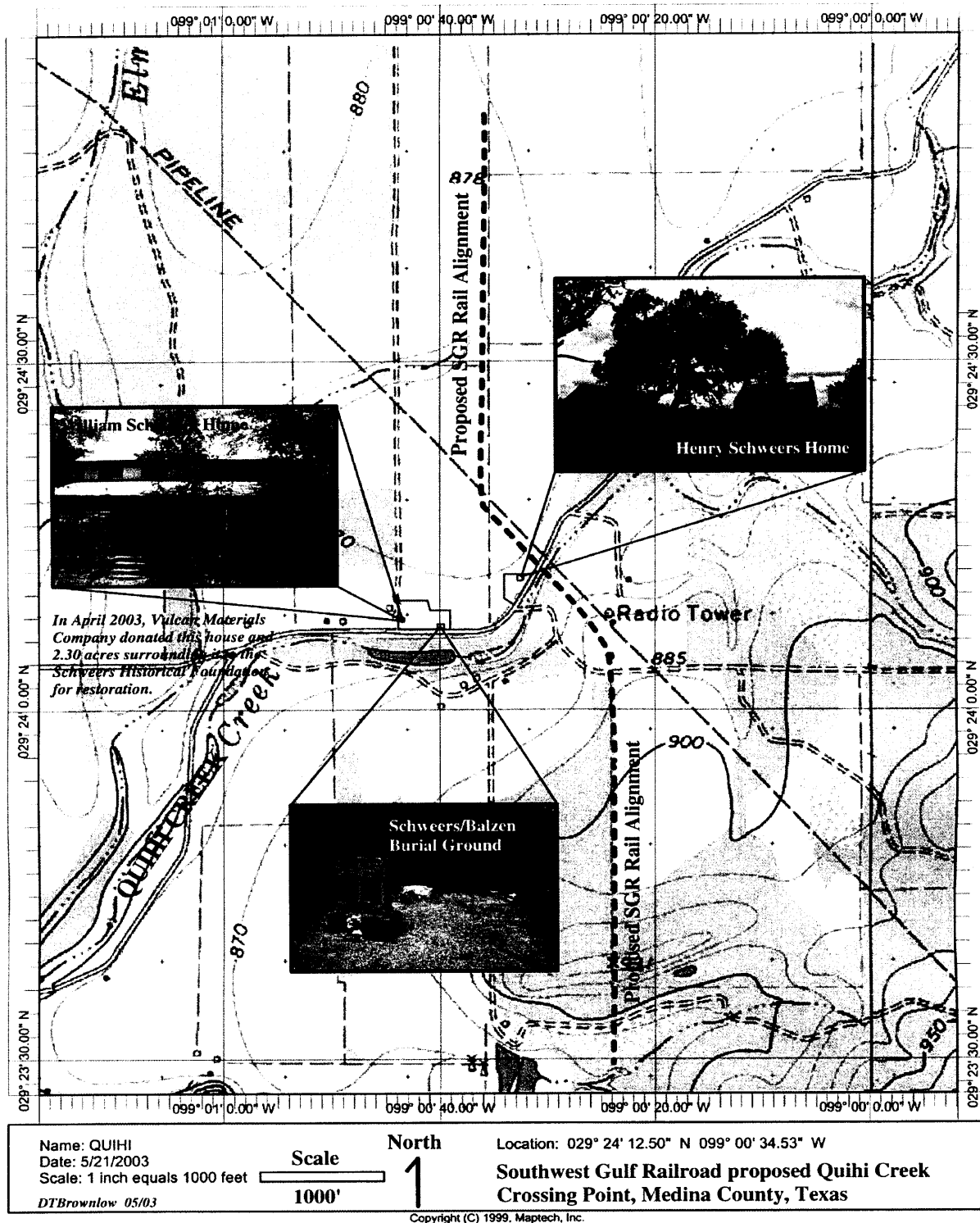
G-A=Germanic-Alsatian; CR=County Road; A=Alternate; NRHP=National Register of Historic Places.

### **3.2 Proposed Route**

The construction of the proposed route would not directly impact any known significant cultural resources, including the Schuele-Saathoff House, a property listed on the NRHP. The proposed route avoids direct impacts to any historic properties that are eligible or potentially eligible for listing in the NRHP and/or for designation as a State Archeological Landmark, including the William Schweers House, the Schweers Cemetery, and the Henry Schweers House. SGR states that the historic properties would be preserved in place (see Figure 4).

Vulcan Materials Company (VMC) has donated the Schweers houses to the Schweers Historical Foundation (SHF) (see Figure 5), and has pledged its support of the SHF. The SHF and architects are developing a preservation plan to preserve the buildings in place for use as a museum and meeting place for reunions. The Schweers cemetery is owned by the Schweers family estate, not the SHF or the project sponsor, but will be included in the overall preservation plan for the Schweers properties. The structure located on the Pichot property would also be avoided and would not be directly impacted by construction. All 20th century structures will also be avoided. Any potential impact to any prehistoric archeological sites is not yet known.

The operation of the proposed route has the potential to indirectly impact significant known cultural resources that are eligible or potentially eligible for listing in the NRHP at a minimum of five locations. Cultural resources that could be indirectly impacted by construction and operation of rail along the proposed route are: (1) the Schuele-Saathoff House (NRHP), (2) the Henry Schweers House, (3) the house located on the Pichot property, (4) the C.J. Saathoff House, and (5) the farmhouse on County Road 353. Aesthetic, visual, dust, and vibration impacts could result in the need for treatment to protect the resource and/or for mitigation to ameliorate any loss or alteration of any resource. In addition, the proposed route has the potential to affect unknown sensitive cultural resources, such as family cemeteries, that are associated with 19th century Germanic-Alsatian cottages, or prehistoric sites that could be located along Quihi, Cherry, Elm, or Polecat Creeks.



**Figure 4. Map Showing a Segment of the Proposed Route at the Crossing of Quihi Creek and 19th century Cultural Resources That Will be Preserved in Place**



Minnie Martin Niethoefer (seated) was born in this pioneer home in 1905. Her grandfather, Wilhelm Schweers, arrived in Quihi in 1856, married Elizabeth Muennick in 1865, and had this home constructed in 1884. Their grandson (Minnie's 1<sup>st</sup> cousin), Harry Schweers, is seated at the right; her daughter, Bernice Annie Katherine Niethoefer Lehmberg, is standing at the left; and Minnie's great niece, Carol Elaine White Carpenter, is standing at the right.

## Schweers Historical Foundation to receive pioneer homes

The Schweers Historical Foundation announced today that Vulcan Materials Company has agreed to donate two historical Quihi houses and adjoining property to the Foundation. The houses were pioneer homes of the Schweers family, and many descendants of the family are current residents in the area.

Vulcan's commitment was made public at the Foundation's Christmas Open House on Dec. 15, which was held at one of the houses being donated. In an address to the attendees, Tom Ransdell, president of Vulcan's Southwest Division, said, "To be quite honest when we purchased the

Willie Schweers estate, we had no idea of the historical significance of some areas of the property. Over the past year, working with Don and Ray Schoch, Carol Carpenter, Doug Riff, Henry Schweers, Glenn Schweers and Tom Pichot, as well as many other community members, we almost feel as if we are now part of the family. As such, we are dedicated to the success of the Schweers Historical Foundation and to the preservation and restoration of these properties. We will continue to be involved in this project and will provide support to the Foundation. The steps we've made to help get the Founda-

tion 'up and running' are just the beginning."

"We are very grateful to Vulcan Materials Company for making this commitment and look forward to working with them as the company continues to expand in Medina County," said Don Schoch, president of the Schweers Historical Foundation.

The Schweers Historical Foundation, Inc. is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) charitable organization. It promotes an appreciation of history through the acquisition, restoration and preservation of historical homes and public buildings located in the Quihi area.

Figure 5. Newspaper Account and Photograph of the Board of Directors of the Schweers Historical Foundation on the Occasion of the Transfer of the Deeds to the Historic Schweers Properties from Vulcan Materials Company to the Foundation

### **3.3 Alternative 1**

Alternative 1 would not directly impact any known cultural resources. However, the selection of Alternative 1 has the potential to indirectly impact significant known 19th century cultural resources that are eligible or potentially eligible for listing in the NRHP at a minimum of ten known locations. One early to mid-20th century residence could be impacted. In addition, the Alternative 1 alignment has the potential to indirectly or directly impact unknown prehistoric cultural resources, in areas that have not been inspected by archeologists.

Cultural resources that could be indirectly impacted by operation along Alternative 1 are the: (1) William Schweers House, (2) Schweers Cemetery, (3) Henry Schweers House, (4) ruins on County Road 450, (5) Housely Cottage on County Road 365, (6) the ruins at County Road 4516 and County Road 365, (7) Victorian Cottage on County Road 4516, (8) ruins located at 4311 County Road 4516, (9) occupied cottage at 4311 County Road 4516, (10) Quihi Cemetery on County Road 4517, and (11), the bungalow at County Road 4545. Aesthetic, visual, dust and vibration impacts may result in the need for treatment to protect the resource and/or for mitigation to ameliorate any loss or alteration of the resource.

### **3.4 Alternative 2**

The construction of the railroad following the Alternative 2 alignment would not directly impact any known significant cultural resources. However, the selection of the Alternative 2 alignment has the potential to indirectly impact significant known cultural resources that are eligible or potentially eligible for listing in the NRHP at four locations. In addition, the Alternative 2 alignment has the potential to indirectly or directly impact unknown sensitive cultural resources, such as family cemeteries, that are often associated with 19th century Germanic-Alsatian cottages.

Cultural resources that would be indirectly impacted by the rail operations over Alternative 2 are: (1) the William Schweers House, (2) the Schweers Cemetery, (3) the Henry Schweers House, and (4) the structure on the Pichot Property. Aesthetic, visual, dust, and vibration impacts may result in the need for treatment to protect the resource and or for mitigation to ameliorate any loss or alteration of the resource. The selection of the Alternative 2 alignment also has the potential to indirectly or directly impact unknown prehistoric cultural resources, in areas that have not been inspected by archeologists.

### **3.5 Alternative 3**

The selection of Alternative 3 for construction would not directly impact any known significant cultural resources. However, the selection of Alternative 3 has the potential to indirectly impact significant known cultural resources that are eligible or potentially eligible for listing in the NRHP, at four known locations. In addition, Alternative 3 has the potential to indirectly or directly impact unknown sensitive cultural resources or prehistoric resources in areas that have not been inspected by archeologists.

Cultural resources that will be indirectly impacted by the rail operations over Alternative 3 are: (1) the Oeffinger Cottage, (2) the Saathoff Germanic-Alsatian cottage, (3) the Saathoff Victorian home, and (4) the cottage ruins on County Road 365. Aesthetic, visual, dust, and vibration impacts may result in the need for treatment to protect the resource and or for mitigation to ameliorate any alteration or loss of the resource.

### **3.6 No-Build Alternative**

Under the non-build alternative, the limestone produced by the proposed quarry would be moved by truck rather than rail. The houses along the proposed truck route are generally set further off from the road right-of-way and would be subject to less impact from vibration and noise or other indirect impacts than if the proposed rail line were built. However, any increased volume of weighted truck traffic on County Road 4516 would pass in close proximity to many of the historic properties, particularly ruins and small cemeteries.

As part of the no-build alternative, SGR states that it would build a remote rail loading facility near the Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) rail line. A review of historic maps indicates that no 19th century structures or ruins are present at the proposed remote rail loading facility locale. The site visit to the proposed rail loading facility locale revealed that the vicinity has been previously disturbed by construction of the UP rail line, modern ranching operations, and recent hunting camp activities. No standing structures were observed on the property from the existing county road. Entry to the property was not available and it was not possible to view the land form for surficial evidence of prehistoric sites, therefore, it is not known what cultural resources evidence may be present inside the tract that may be affected by construction of the remote rail loading facility.

Also observed during the site visit were other modern land use impacts in the vicinity of the proposed remote rail loading facility. The construction of the nearby US Highway 90 overpass has impacted blocks of land near the existing UP rail line. An abandoned gravel pit in the area is a

suitable location for development, due to the absence of historic properties and archeological deposits.

### **3.7 Potential Impacts Related to Karst Features and Ground Vibrations**

The nature of any impacts of the construction and operation of the railroad along the proposed route or the alternative alignments to any karst features present that contain archeological deposits is not known at this time. Known karst features are located near the terminus loop of the railroad above the 950 feet contour along Polecat Creek and Elm Creek. Results of a karst study of the area will be included in SEA's environmental document. The environmental document will also contain the results of a vibration assessment that will evaluate potential impacts to cultural resources. Results from these studies will be incorporated into the draft environmental document, which will be made available for public review and comment.

### **3.8 Preliminary Recommendations**

As mentioned, many of the known cultural resources that are located near the proposed route and alternative alignments have the potential to be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and for designation as a State Archeological Landmark or a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark. Additionally, the potential for the presence of unknown cultural resources along the proposed and alternative routes is very high due to the early settlement of the Quihi community. For these reasons, SEA preliminarily concludes that additional study by archeologists, historians, historic architects, and/or other scientists and technicians of any rail route selected for development is warranted prior to construction, and during the planning and design stages of the project. Such study could include: 1) visual inspection of the route; 2) shovel testing areas of high probability; 3) inventory and documentation of any cultural resources present; 4) evaluation of the research value of cultural resources present; and 5) formulation of cultural resource management recommendations regarding construction impacts and landmark eligibility status.

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**Appendix A**  
**Ostfriesland Immigrants to Medina County:**  
**the "Saathoffsche Kolonie"**

# The Ostfriesen Pages

## Medina County

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### Ostfriesland Immigrants to Medina County

Most immigrants from Ostfriesland to the US in the mid 1800s settled in the midwest states, but a small colony settled in Medina County, Texas beginning in early 1846. While the Texas settlers had many of the same reasons for immigrating, the land and conditions they found there were vastly different.

Beginning under Mexican rule and continuing under the Republic of Texas, empresarios were used to settle families in colonies in order to populate new areas. Even after Texas officially joined the Union on Dec. 29, 1845, the original land grants and immigration contracts were still in force.

In 1842 Henri Castro contracted with the government of Texas to settle a colony of 600 French families on two grants, one west of San Antonio along the Medina River. In 1844 a mostly Alsatian contingent settled Castroville.. Later that year, the town to be Quihi was surveyed in anticipation of future settlement. The name Quihi comes from an Indian word for the bird known as the Mexican eagle, as modified by the Spanish, and later by the Germans.

Castro's agents also recruited to the north, and succeeded in convincing some Ostfriesen families to join the colony. Some early settlers of Quihi in 1846 were Louis Boehle, Mimke Mimkin Saathoff and wife Antje Dirks from Aurich-Oldendorf, Focke E. Saathoff and wife Engel Osterman from Holtrop, Gerd Schmidt, and John Henry Gerdes. Many friends and family were to later join them in the "Saathoffsche Kolonie".

The journey of Mimke Saathoff to Medina County is typical of many of the early settlers. They departed from Bremen and sailed for 9 weeks, arriving in Galveston, Texas. During the voyage, a child was born, and died. From Galveston they boarded a smaller vessel for the trip to Port Lavaca, resting there from the journey, *and* to prepare for the journey still ahead. The trip overland by oxcart was arduous, with many streams to cross, and not everyone who set out arrived at the destination. Poisonous snakes, overturned carts, and disease all took their toll.

Once at the settlement, crude shelters were built, some nothing more than mere lean-tos, covered with long native grass. Later, permanent homes were constructed of limestone and sandstone rock walls, quite thick. Most had small windows that doubled as gun ports in case of attack by bandits or Indians. Cultivation of the land began immediately, but was not very successful, due to a lack of tools, freeloading wild animals, and the climate being quite different from that with which they were familiar. They soon learned corn, cotton, sorghum and cattle were the way to go. They may have suffered more from hunger but the Texas Rangers who were stationed there for protection shared their rations and shot game for them. Wild berries, nuts, honey and fish were also part of the diet.

Some later arrivals in Quihi and the nearby settlement of New Fountain were, from Aurich-Oldendorf, Frederich Muennink and Antje Frieden Schoon in 1846, Gerd Faseler and Christina Muennink in 1848; Christoph and John Wiemers in 1848. Also from Aurich-Oldendorf were, Harm Hinrich Balzen and Rickste Hinrichs in 1852, Harm and Dirk Gerdes in 1855, and Harm Schweer Bohmfalk and Johanna Schoon in 1856. From Holtrop were Lubben Aden and Gretze Saathoff in 1852, Martin Jansen Saathoff in 1853, Harm Degrodt in 1859, and Johann Lindeburg in 1868.

The Comanche were always a threat, but the Delaware, Tonkaway, and Lipan Indians were friendly at first. They even helped the new settlers hunt wild game and introduced them to new crops, such as corn and squash. Later they realized the new settlers were taking away their land and food supplies and became hostile. Horses and firearms were constant targets of theft, and several of the settlers were captured or killed during the raids. The last Indian raid was in 1874 when the lawless and troubled period of reconstruction after the civil war finally ended.

The American civil war was especially troubling for these new immigrants. Many had left the old country to escape wars and the military and they had no economic interest in slavery. Medina County voted against secession, but to no avail. The community was divided, and tensions grew. There is a story told in the family that Mimke Saathoff became involved in a fight during an argument about joining the Southern forces and killed his opponent. In case of an adverse outcome, friends had procured a fast horse and plans were made to flee to Mexico, but that turned out to be unnecessary. After being acquitted with a verdict of self-defense, Mimke joined the Home Guard, as did many of his neighbors. Many others sought refuge and spent the war in Mexico.

Old Quihi today might be called a ghost town, little resembling the frontier village founded so long ago. The Quihi Bethlehem Lutheran Church still stands along with its traditional German cemetery. Many descendants of the original settlers still live in the area, but it has now become "civilized". Weekend ranches and suburban acreages and estates have replaced the wilderness.

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Questions or problems regarding this web site should be directed to Paul Adams: [padams@summitsoftware.com](mailto:padams@summitsoftware.com).

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Last modified: Saturday August 26, 2000.



**Appendix B**  
**1870 Census New Fountain, Texas**



# Medina County Texas

## 1870 New Fountain

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### Portion of Medina County US Census, 1870:

[USGenWeb Project](#)

[TXGenWeb Project](#)

Dwelling-houses, numbered in order of visitation.	Families, numbered in order of visitation	The name of every person whose place of abode on first day of June, 1870 was in this family.	Age at last birthday prior to June 1, 1880. If under 1 year, give months in fractions, thus 2/12	Sex - Male, Female	Color - White, Black, Mulatto, Chinese, Indian	Profession
1	2	3	4	5	6	

New Fountain PO, Medina, TX 4 July 1870 page 23

171	165	Balzen, Harm	58	m	w	farmer
		, Antge	27	f	w	keeper
		, Henry	15	m	w	
		, Catharina	14	f	w	
		, Anna	3	f	w	
		, Rohlf	1	m	w	

New Fountain PO, Medina, TX 5 July 1870 page 25

179	173	Balzen, Henry	45	m	w	farmer
		, Gesche	44	f	w	
		, Mimke	16	m	w	

**Appendix C**  
**Schuele-Saathoff House National Register of Historic Places Form**

## Saathoff House



Saathoff House

Reference  
Number: 82004515

Resource Name: Saathoff House

Other Name: Schuehle-Saathoff House

Address: Quihi-Stormhill Rd.

Restricted:

Owner: PRIVATE

Resource Type: BUILDING

Number of  
Contributing 1  
Buildings:

Number of  
Contributing 0  
Sites:

Number of  
Contributing 0  
Structures:

Number of  
Contributing 0  
Objects:

Number of Non-  
contributing 0  
Buildings:

Number of Non-  
contributing 0  
Sites:

Number of Non-  
contributing 0  
Structures:

Number of Non-  
contributing 0  
Objects:

Federal Agency:

Park Name:

Multiple Name:

Nominated  
Name: STATE GOVERNMENT

Certification: LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Certification  
Date: 19820909

Significance  
Level: LOCAL

Significance  
Name:

Circa: C

Significant Year: 1870

State:

Cultural  
Affiliation:

Architect: Unknown

Other  
Description: Germanic-Alsatian

County: Medina

City: Quihi

Applicable  
Criteria: EVENT; ARCHITECTURE/ENGINEERING

Area  
Significance: EDUCATION; ARCHITECTURE

Architectural  
Style: OTHER

Current Function: DOMESTIC

Criteria  
Exception:

Subfunction: SINGLE DWELLING

Historic Function: DOMESTIC

Historic  
Subfunction: SINGLE DWELLING

Foundation: NONE LISTED

Wall: TIN

Roof: LOG

Other Materials: NONE LISTED

Other  
Certifications:

Other  
Documentation:

Period: 1850-1874

UTM Zone:

UTM Easting:

UTM Northing:

Acreage: 660

Narrative: The well-preserved Saathoff House, located near Quihi in rural Medina County, is a one-and-a-half story, vernacular, limestone cottage constructed in the third quarter of the nineteenth century. This simple and functional, yet charming, residence is a good example of regional Germanic-Alsatian domestic architecture characteristic of Medina County and Central Texas. The design of the rectangular Alsatian-influenced Saathoff House, with five-bay porched front, relatively low-pitched gable roof with end chimneys, and native plastered limestone with lime-sand mortar construction, differs from the characteristic Texas German style houses typical of counties to the north which were settled by immigrants from central Germany. Similar to other Eastern European pioneer Texas dwellings, the architecture of the Saathoff House reflects the limitations of the frontier environment. Its construction which was adapted to the local building materials and climate of Texas, reflects the simple and often rugged way of life German emigrants to Texas faced during the second half of the nineteenth century. In addition to the native limestone, local cypress was employed for wood framing and wood finish work throughout the house, including structural members, flooring, window frames and sash, and doors and door frames.

Approximately 26 feet wide by 41 feet long, the rectangular structure contains a deep inset front porch with at least five, and perhaps six, square wooden posts extending the length of the five bay facade. The low-pitched gabled roof, originally covered with cypress shingles, contains two chimneys with articulated caps rising from the end

masonry walls. A third chimney is located in the southwest kitchen wall of the rear shed extension. While the main portion of the gable roof is covered with corrugated metal, the rear shed extension contains a standing-seam metal roof. Typical of other substantially constructed vernacular German pioneer dwellings, the stonework of the house is of exceptional quality and reflects the mason's excellent craftsmanship and skill. Exterior walls are constructed of hewn stones of various size; sealed together with a plaster made of sand and lime which had been burned from native limestone.

Fenestration of the Saathoff House is symmetrical with single 6/6 rectangular openings with wooden trim appearing on the front facade and northeast side. While the symmetrically balanced front facade contains two single transomed doors flanked by windows on either side, the northeast elevation displays two 6/6 windows and a smaller attic window reached by ladder. Historic photographs reveal that first level windows were originally shuttered and that the southeast side was also pierced by a smaller attic opening.

With the exception of the enclosure of the rear porch ca. 1920 and minor alterations made for the installation of electricity, the structure's original interior has not been changed. The original rectangular interior space is one room deep with three approximately equal sized rooms, two of which contain simple fireplaces with intact wooden mantels. When the rear shed porch was enclosed, both a kitchen and small bedroom were formed and original exterior openings, although somewhat altered, were left intact. All ceilings throughout the house are constructed of beaded ceiling boards and interior walls are plastered. Cypress boards were for flooring in all the rooms.

Structural changes to the house, which have been few and well-executed, have not adversely affected its historic or architectural quality. Perhaps the major alteration of the original structure was the enclosure of the rear south-east porch ca. 1920. Modern aluminum screen doors and windows and siding have since been added to this rear shed extension. According to historic photographs, the structure's five-bay facades were retained, although alterations were made in the size and location of some of the original front and rear windows and doors. Some of the original cypress shakes are still in place under the present tin roof. The chimneys, although located in their original positions, were originally exterior, instead of interior, chimneys. All of these changes, however, are in keeping with the architectural integrity of the home.

Outbuildings on the property originally included a steep gable roofed wood frame barn situated to the southeast of the house and a well at the southwest corner. Both structures, which appear in historic photographs, no longer exist.

The physical condition of the house is fair, while most of the original features of the interior and exterior have remained untouched. Besides reinforcement of the southwest wall, only minor repairs to the wood and stucco are currently needed. Restoration plans, which include general maintenance and returning the structure to its original physical condition, are currently being executed by Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Hendrix, Jr., who purchased the property in 1979. Some of their initial restoration work has included the installation of a plumbing system and new roof. The present owners reside in San Antonio, but intend to furnish the house with antiques and occupy the house as a private residence and vacation home.

The Saathoff House, built ca. 1870, is significant for its historic associations with the early German settlement in the vicinity of Quihi and the Saathoff family, whose members, including Mimke H. Saathoff, Jr., Schweer H. Saathoff, and William N. Saathoff, were instrumental in the establishment of the first free public school system in Medina County. A substantial and rare intact example of vernacular German-Alsatian stone architecture common to this area, the structure has minor additions and few alterations, and exhibits excellent craftsmanship in its stone construction.

The Saathoff House, a typical nineteenth century Alsatian-influenced German domestic stone structure, is located on the south side of Quihi Creek in the community of Quihi, approximately 8 miles east of Hondo. Specifically, the house is situated in the north-west corner of the Nicholas Pingent Survey No. 9, Abstract 764, a grant of 320 acres which was surveyed on October 11, 1846, for empresario Henry Castro, assignee of Pingent Louis Huth, acting as agent for Castro, brought the first ten families, predominantly German, to Quihi in 1846. Surveyed lots were subsequently divided into farms of 640 and 320 acres for each married and single man respectively.

There appears to be no evidence that Castro ever resided on the Pingent Survey which had passed, by the 1870s, to members of the Schuehle, Schweers, and Saathoff families, all early settlers of Medina County. The earliest history of the Saathoff House has been difficult to document, but according to tradition it was built about 1870 for Henry Schuehle. An 1871 subdivision map shows a house belonging to Schuehle at the same location as the Saathoff House, and structural and stylistic evidence supports post-Civil War era construction. An interesting link with Medina County's early history can be found beneath an oak tree south of the house; it is the grave of a Mrs. Boehle, said to have been killed in an Indian attack.

The Saathoff House was acquired shortly after 1900 by Schweer H. and William N. Saathoff, sons of Mimke, Jr., who had purchased adjoining property some thirty years earlier. Born in Hanover in 1839, Mimke Saathoff came to Texas with his family in 1846 as a member of Castro's Colony. His relatives were involved in the founding of Quihi and instrumental in the formation of the Lutheran Church in Medina County.

In addition to their early community involvement in Quihi, the Saathoffs were closely associated with the establishment of a public education system in Medina County. From 1873 to 1874 Mimke Saathoff, Jr., served as Medina County School Trustee and in 1875 was elected President of the Board of Trustees when a rock schoolhouse was built in Quihi. He donated the land for the erection of one of the first public free schools in Quihi, while his two sons eventually taught in the County school system. William Saathoff, in particular, is remembered for his contributions as a Medina County school superintendent, while Schweer H. recorded Medina County's early history in a series of unpublished articles.

In 1944, after approximately forty-five years of occupation by the Saathoff family, the house ceased to be occupied regularly and began to serve as a hunting lodge and weekend home—a function it continued to serve until 1979, when Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Hendrix, Jr., of San Antonio purchased the property. During this extended period few changes were made to the structure, which has retained not only its architectural integrity, but its significance as the residence of some of the earliest German pioneer families in Medina County.

Architecturally, the house is similar in construction and form to several other German stone pioneer dwellings in the area which have severely deteriorated or been altered beyond recognition. It is the only German house of this period to survive in Quihi in such an unaltered, preserved state. Despite the twentieth century rear enclosed addition to the house and various minor alterations, the Saathoff House retains most of its original fabric and character.

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Peter Flagg Maxson. Interview with Kathy Hendrix, Austin, 1 March 1982.

**Appendix D**  
**Photographs of Cultural Resources**



**Photograph 1. Photograph Facing North of the William Schweers House  
Occupied 1870's-1999**



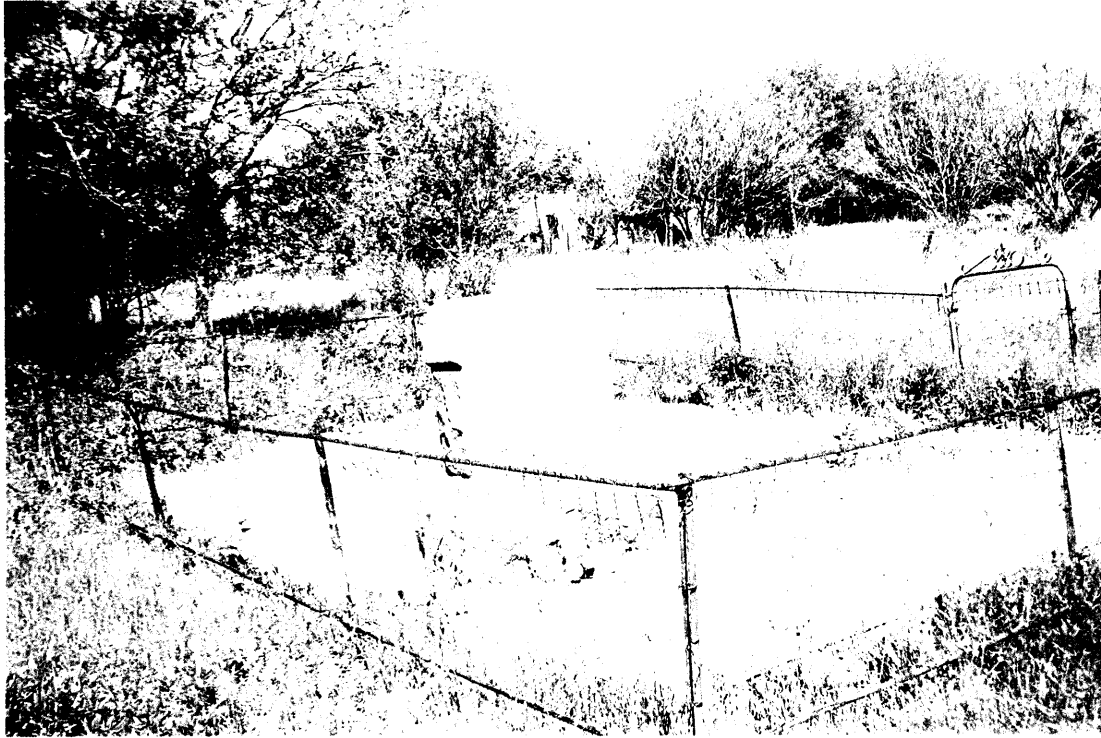
**Photograph 2. Photograph of the William Schweers House  
Showing Front Porch Features**



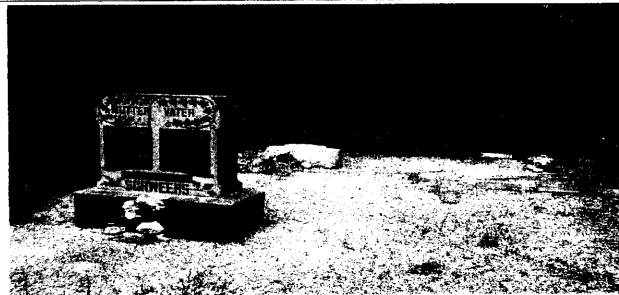
**Photograph 3. Photograph of Cable and Steel Beam Stabilizing System at Northeast Corner of the William Schweers House**



**Photograph 4. Photograph Facing North of the Barn at the William Schweers House**



**Photograph 5. Photograph Facing Northwest Showing Schweers Cemetery on CR365**



**Photograph 6. Photograph of Above-the-Ground Adult Tombstones and  
Ground-Level Markers for the Children's Graves**



**Photograph 7. Photograph Showing Henry Schweers House Made of Yellow Native Stone Unique to the Upper Quihi-Area and White Limestone Inlay**



**Photograph 8. Photograph Facing East of the Housely Cottage (CR365) Near Quihi Creek**



**Photograph 9. Photograph of a Typical Quihi-Area Germanic-Alsatian-Style Cottage  
Located at 4311**



**Photograph 10. Photograph of the Ruins of a Germanic-Alsatian-Style Home  
Located at 4311 CR4516**



**Photograph 11. Photograph of a Typical Late 19th Century-  
Early 20th Century Home on CR 4516**



**Photograph 12. Photograph of the Ruins of a Building Shown on Early Maps as a Store in the Center of Ouihi at the Intersection of CR365 and CR4516**



**Photograph 13. Photograph of the Occupied Oeffinger Cottage Showing Front Porch Enclosures and Additions**



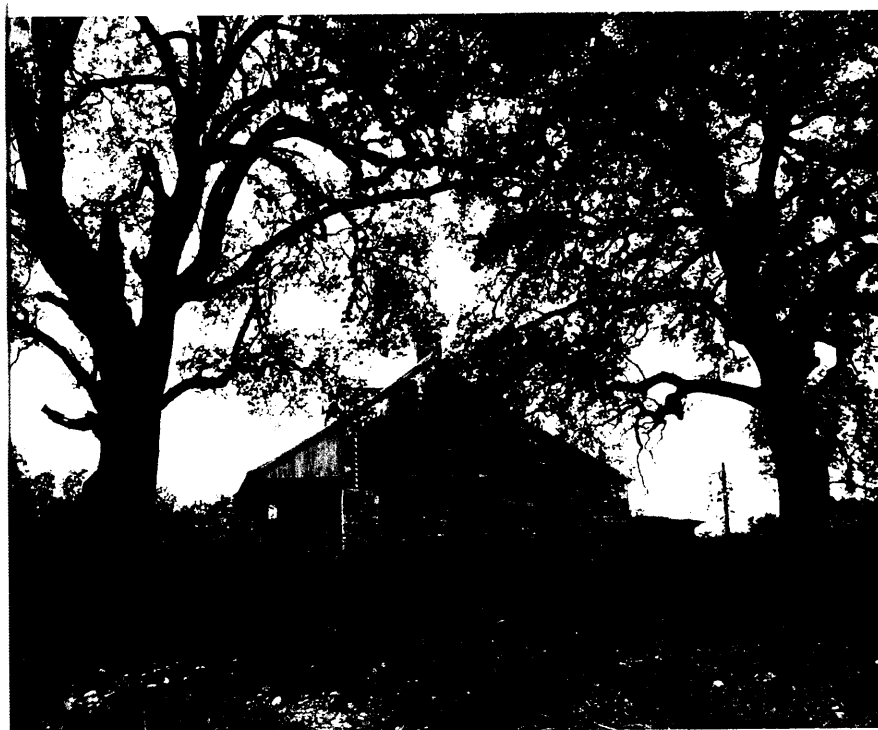
**Photograph 14. Photograph of the Saathoff Residence, a Frame Victorian-Style Home**



**Photograph 15. Photograph Facing East Showing the 19th Century Saathoff Cottage/Outbuilding**



**Photograph 16. Photograph of the Ruins on CR365,  
a 19th Century Native Stone Cottage**



**Photograph 17. Photograph of the Henry Schweers House, Facing West**